(a) whether a large number of IT professionals are returning India from US;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how many of them have returned so far during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Due to current slow-down in the economy many companies in the US are cutting down costs and laying off employees. Some US Companies, who earlier opted for on-site work are now converting these into offshore assignments on cost considerations. However, no precise data is available regarding the number of IT professionals who have returned for this reasons. As per NASSCOM's estimate about 1000 IT professionals may have returned.

Code red virus in Computers

3436. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the 'Code Red virus' that may affect computers;

(b) if so, what is its likely impact; and

(c) the precautionary measures proposed to be taken to save computers from the virus in Government establishments?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Centre for IT Security, set up by Ministry of Information Technology (MIT) for serving as Computer Emergency Response Team, had already sent necessary alerts to all its clients even before this worm became a menace.

(b) The Code Red Worm may affect some of the Network Service Providing sub-systems. The desktops may be affected indirectly in terms of slower/denial of Internet Access.

(c) The necessary remedial patches to prevent the spread of this worm had already been installed in the Government establishments. Necessary instructions to mitigate the effects of this menace have also been issued to other users.

Cyber Crime Laws

3437. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item,

captioned "Cyber crime laws lack enough punch" appearing in the 'Hindu' dated the 26th June, 2001;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have identified the uncovered areas in the existing law which are limiting its efficacy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to address these inadequacies?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Information Technology Act 2000 is under implementation and many of the issues mentioned in the news item are being addressed.

Potential in E-Solutions Market

3438. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 7th August, 2001 captioned, "India must tap global e-solutions market";

(b) whether it is a fact that world wide market for e-solution products and services estimated at $180 billion in 2000, is expected to grow to $640 billion by 2005; and

(c) if so, whether Indian Information Technology Companies like Satyam, Infosys, Wipro, TCS, which have acquired a good reputation aim to achieve 0.25-0.5 percent revenues from the overall e-solutions products market by 2005—2010?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. As per the report prepared by "The Boston Consulting Group" (BCG) for National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), the e-solutions market projection is as stated in the question.

(c) The above mentioned BCG report for NASSCOM (in which Satyam, Infosys, Wipro, TCS are important members) also recommends - The Indian IT firms should set themselves an aspiration to achieve revenues of $1 B (0.25-0.5% of the overall e-solutions product market) by 2010.